

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIM:

1. A microelectronic element comprising:
 - (a) a body defining a front surface, said body having pads exposed at said front surface;
 - (b) flexible leads having pad ends and tip ends, said pad ends of said flexible leads being connected to said pads, said tip ends of at least some of said flexible leads projecting over said front surface of said body, at least some of said flexible leads being spaced apart from said front surface, said tip ends of said flexible leads being independently movable with respect to said body, each of said at least some of said flexible leads being curved in a plane parallel to said front surface of said body.

REMARKS

The present communication is responsive to the Official Action mailed June 6, 2001.

Claim 1 of the present application has been amended to include the recitations of claim 3. Claims 2 through 7 have been cancelled. A new claim 12 has been added combining features of original claims 4 and 6-7 with those of the original claim 1. New claims 13 through 16 have been added as dependent claims from claim 12.

The Examiner has objected to claim 6, finding the use of the phrases "section disposed near to said front surface" and "section remote from said front surface" to be unacceptably vague. Claim 6 has been cancelled, and more precise language has been used in new claim 12.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 4 through 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,747,202 to *Jordan*.

Amended claim 1 and new claim 12 distinguish over this reference, as *Jordan* does not disclose either leads curved in the plane of the front surface of the body (claim 1) or leads extending over the front surface of the body having tip ends spaced further from the front surface relative to the spacing of the pad ends (claim 12). As noted, claim 2 and claims 4-7 have been cancelled. Applicant urges that claim 8 is allowable as a dependent of amended claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by FIG. 13 of U.S. Patent No. 5,110,762 to *Nakahara et al.* Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection on the basis that FIG. 13 does not anticipate a microelectronic element having leads with one end bonded to a pad and a free end extending over the face of the chip body. Although *Nakahara* suggests that the free end of lead 201 might become bonded to pad 202 (col. 12, lns. 14-19), there is no indication that the opposite end of lead 201 is a "tip end," much less a tip end that extends over the front surface of the same body on which pad 202 is exposed. Lead 201 is shown in a fragmentary view and the remote end of the lead is neither shown nor described. However, the introductory segment of this passage (col. 11, lns. 58-64) indicates that lead 201 is part of a TAB tape. Therefore, neither the figure or related passage provides support for the contention that FIG. 13 discloses the lead structure of claim 1.

Moreover, the amended claim 1 and new claim 12 adequately distinguish over *Nakahara*, as discussed above.

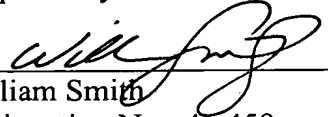
The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nakahara et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,830,782 to *Smith et al.*, relying on the conclusion that *Nakahara* teaches the use of the leads of original claim 1. As discussed herein, *Nakahara* does not disclose leads having tip ends extending over the front surface of the same body to which the opposite ends of the leads are bonded. Therefore, combining the leads taught by *Nakahara* with the features disclosed in *Smith* would not result in the structures of claims 3, 9 or 10. Similarly, applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nakahara* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,639,385 to *McCormick*. As has been discussed, *Nakahara* does not teach a lead that extends over the same body to which it is attached, therefore, *Nakahara* provides no motive to use such a lead in a device such as that of *McCormick*.

As it is believed that all of the rejections have been fully addressed by the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all claims in the present application are respectfully requested. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: September 6, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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